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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/644,871	08/21/2003	Hiroyuki Nishida	Q77027	7068

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WASHINGTON, DC 20037

EXAMINER

VALENTIN, JUAN D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2877

DATE MAILED: 03/21/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/644,871

Applicant(s)

NISHIDA ET AL.

Examiner

Juan D. Valentin II

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 December 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 8-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 18-20 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 8-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 August 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 08/21/2003.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The information disclosure statement filed 08/21/2003 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3) because it does not include a concise explanation of the relevance, as it is presently understood by the individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56(c) most knowledgeable about the content of the information, of each patent listed that is not in the English language. It has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered. The foreign references cited do not have English translations or a description of their relevance to the present application, therefore they have not been considered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 8, 9, 14 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DeCock (USPN '723) in view of Bridges (USPN '332).

Claims 8, 9 & 14

DeCock in conjunction with Figs. 1 & 4, discloses an apparatus for measuring a dimension (Fig. 4, ref. A-G) of a sheet member 14, comprising an infrared light source 10 (col. 3, lines 53-56), a plurality of photodetectors 17, having respective optical axes directed toward a

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feed path of the sheet member, for directly or indirectly detecting said light from said light source 10, and a data processor (Fig. 6, ref. 23) for detecting the position of an end of said sheet member 14 based on the luminance of said light detected by said photodetectors 17, and measuring a dimension (Fig. 4, ref. A-G) of said sheet member 14 from the detected position of the end of said sheet member 14 (col. 3, line 1-col 4, line 16).

DeCock substantially teaches the claimed invention except that it fails to show an LED (claim 14) light source for applying light in a wavelength range which prevents the sheet member from being fogged. Bridges shows that it is known to provide a LED light source for applying light in a wavelength range which prevents the sheet member from being fogged (col. 1, lines 47-53 & col. 4, lines 37-41) for a defecting inspecting apparatus in a moving web. It would have been obvious to someone of ordinary skill in the art to combine the device of DeCock with the infrared fog-preventing lamp of Bridges for the purposes of providing defect inspection light on a moving web of film without exposing the film.

Claim 10

DeCock as applied above further discloses wherein said data processor 23 comprises threshold setting means for setting a threshold depending on an optical property of said sheet member 14, and end detecting means for detecting the position (Fig. 4, ref. A-G) of the end of said sheet member 14 based on said threshold and the luminance of said light (col. 3, line 36-col. 4, line 16).

Claim 11

DeCock as applied above further discloses wherein said photodetectors 17 are disposed in a position to detect said light that has passed through the feed path of said sheet member 14 (Fig.

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1), said threshold setting means comprising means for setting said threshold depending on the transmittance of said light as said optical property of said sheet member (col. 3, line 36-col. 5, line 10).

Claim 15

DeCock in view of Bridges discloses the claimed invention except for wherein said sheet member comprises a photographic film, said infrared light having a wavelength of at least 900 nm. It is inherent to someone of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to find the optimum infrared wavelength range which would prevent fogging, since it has been held that discovering an optimum value or workable range of a result effective variable involves only routine skill in the art.

Claim 16

DeCock as applied above discloses a two-dimensional diode matrix array. Official notice taken. It is the position of the Office that DeCock discloses the claimed invention except for the use of a CCD camera. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a CCD camera in place of the two-dimensional diode matrix array since the Examiner takes Official notice of the equivalence of a CCD camera and a two-dimensional diode matrix array for their use in the art of moving web inspection systems and the selection of any of these known equivalents would be within the level of ordinary skill in the art.

3. Claim 12 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DeCock in view of Bridges and further in view of Wenthe, Jr. (USPN '140).

Claim 12

DeCock as applied above discloses wherein said data processor 23 comprises dimension acquiring means for determining the dimension of said sheet member based on the position of said end detected by said end detecting means (col. 3, line 35-col. 5, line 2).

DeCock as applied above substantially teaches the claimed invention except that it fails to show skew detecting means for detecting a skew of said sheet member based on the position of said end detected by said end detecting means, and skew correcting means for correcting the dimension of said sheet member determined by said dimension acquiring means based on the skew detected by said skew detecting means. Wenthe, Jr. shows that it is known to provide skew detecting means for detecting a skew of said sheet member based on the position of said end detected by said end detecting means, and skew correcting means for correcting the dimension of said sheet member determined by said dimension acquiring means based on the skew detected by said skew detecting means (col. 4, lines 3-60) for a visually inspection apparatus of a moving web. It would have been obvious to someone of ordinary skill in the art to combine the device of DeCock with the deskewing method of Wenthe, Jr. for the purposes of providing reliable correction of misregistration of a moving web.

4. Claim 13 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DeCock in view of Bridges and further in view of Kerkhoff et al. (USPN '181, hereinafter Kerkhoff).

Claim 13

DeCock as applied above substantially teaches the claimed invention except that it fails to show wherein said light source comprises an electronic flash lamp for applying said light to

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said sheet member as it is fed along said feed path, for a predetermined period of time. Kerkhoff shows that it is known to provide an electronic LED flash lamp for applying said light to said sheet member as it is fed along said feed path, for a predetermined period of time (col. 3, line 40-col. 4, line 18) for a visually inspection apparatus of a moving web. It would have been obvious to someone of ordinary skill in the art to combine the device of DeCock with the LED flash lamp of Kerkhoff for the purposes of providing reliable evaluation of the quality of a moving web (col. 3, lines 1-7).

5. Claim 17 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DeCock in view of Bridges and further in view of Richards et al. (USPN '952 B1, hereinafter Richards).

Claim 17

DeCock as applied above substantially teaches the claimed invention except that it fails to show at least a pair of belt conveyors for feeding said sheet member while gripping the sheet member there between. Richards shows that it is known to provide at least a pair of belt conveyors for feeding said sheet member while gripping the sheet member there between (Fig. 1) for a sheet handling system. It would have been obvious to someone of ordinary skill in the art to combine the device of DeCock with the sheet conveying system of Kerkhoff for the purposes of providing high speed feeding and registering of a traveling sheet (Richards, col. 7, lines 5-11).

Conclusion

"Several facts have been relied upon from the personal knowledge of the examiner about which the examiner took Official Notice. Applicant must seasonably challenge

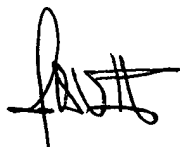
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well known statements and statements based on personal knowledge when they are made by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences. In re Selmi, 156 F.2d 96, 70 USPQ 197 (CCPA 1946); In re Fischer, 125 F.2d 725, 52 USPQ 473 (CCPA 1942). See also In re Boon, 439 F.2d 724, 169 USPQ 231 (CCPA 1971) (a challenge to the taking of judicial notice must contain adequate information or argument to create on its face a reasonable doubt regarding the circumstances justifying the judicial notice). If applicant does not seasonably traverse the well-known statement during examination, then the object of the well known statement is taken to be admitted prior art. In re Chevenard, 139 F.2d 71, 60 USPQ 239 (CCPA 1943). A seasonable challenge constitutes a demand for evidence made as soon as practicable during prosecution. Thus, applicant is charged with rebutting the well-known statement in the next reply after the Office action in which the well known statement was made." Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Juan D. Valentin II whose telephone number is (571) 272-2433. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gregory J. Toatley, Jr. can be reached on (571) 272-2800 ext. 77. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Juan D Valentin II
Examiner 2877
JDV
March 19, 2006



LAYLA G. LAUCHMAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER